

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5, 13, 14, and 19-25 are the pending claims in this application. As indicated below, claims 4, 22, and 24 are being amended consistent with the Examiner's suggestions in the Advisory Action of April 28, 2008.

More specifically, the Advisory Action notes that proposed claim 22 did not recite a weight percentage range of platinum. The Examiner contended that support was only shown for from 0.1 to 0.5 % platinum. From page 4, lines 1 and 2, it is clear that the Examiner intended to indicate that there is support for from 0.1 to 5 wt% of platinum. In order to expedite prosecution, the applicants have amended claim 22 to recite that platinum is present from between 0.1 and 5 wt% of the alloy.

The Advisory Action also noted that proper Markush language was not used in the listing of elements of Ta, Nb, Mo, Cr, Ce, Sc, Lu, Co, Ni, Hf, Y, Ru and Pd. The applicants have amended claims 4 and 22 to clarify the claims by specifying proper Markush language. In addition, the applicants have corrected the word "allow" to --alloy-- in claim 24. The applicants have also changed the title to recite --IRIDIUM ALLOY--.

The only remaining issue raised in the Advisory Action is that the Examiner recommended adding language such as --wherein iridium comprises the balance of the alloy-- to "clarify the claims." The applicants contend that the claims are sufficiently clear without such language. The applicants had amended the claims in the Response filed 17 April 2008 to incorporate allowable subject matter, and no such requirement was made in the final Office Action. Moreover, it should be appreciated that the transition phrase "consisting essentially of" is used in the claims, which means that claimed alloy includes other constituents that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. See M.P.E.P. § 2111.03. As an example of such other constituents, the specification at page 3, lines 26-29, contemplates that impurities may be contained in the alloy.

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In view of the amendments to the title and the claims and the remarks, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lewis, Reg. No. 36,201
Attorney for Applicants

CRI/lrb

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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